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 19/12/52/2000/PDD

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 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT STAT
 CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR
 SUBJECT Medical Epidemiology
 HOW PUBLISHED Weekly newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Moscow
 DATE PUBLISHED 15 Jun 1949
 LANGUAGE Russian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1949
 DATE DIST. 14 Jul 1949
 NO. OF PAGES 3
 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Meditinskiy Rabotnik, No 24, 1949.

MEDICAL GROUP DISCUSSES
PROBLEMS OF BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL

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Recently the Department of Hygiene, Microbiology, and Epidemiology, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, convened in special session at Alma-Ata to discuss various aspects of brucellosis and methods for its control. The session was well attended by scientific workers of Kazakh SSR, various health officials of the same SSR and guests from various middle Asiatic cities.

The main theme of the session centered around a decree of the Council of Ministers USSR, issued early in 1949, which dealt with "Measures for the Control of Brucellosis." Under the program set up by this decree all incidences of brucellosis were to be eliminated by 1950. The USSR is the first nation to undertake such a program under government sponsorship.

Much concrete information is necessary to wage a successful fight against brucellosis. Scientific and technical personnel must be armed with knowledge concerning the etiology, sources, methods of propagation, development characteristics, pathogenesis and immunology, as well as methods of prophylaxis and therapy of brucellosis. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct an intensive microbiological, immunological, epidemiological, and clinical study of the disease.

The first report at this memorable session was presented by T. Ye. Boldyrev and I. I. Rogozin, corresponding members of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, who described various methods by which state-sponsored institutions can curb the spread of brucellosis. They suggest that the state undertake a comprehensive program to strengthen the sanitation-disinfection network.

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Prof P. F. Zirodovskiy, active member of the Academy, described present-day trends in the study of brucellosis. He revealed that Soviet scientists have established two types of epidemiologically different brucellosis in man: (1) the sporadic type which is transmitted to humans through cows and pigs and (2) the epidemic type which is the result of infection transmitted through goats and sheep. This approach to the study of brucellosis has been most effective and has shown state organizations that every effort must be exerted to eliminate the more dangerous of the two -- the epidemic type.

Academician Ye. N. Pavlovskiy, Dr of Medical Sciences; I. G. Galuzo, Director of the Institute of Regional Pathology, Academy of Sciences, Kazakh SSR; I. K. Karakulov; and I. O. Koryakin, Deputy Minister of Health Kazakh SSR; all submitted reports on the present-day status of the epidemiology and epizootiology of brucellosis. The reports discussed the role of various animals in the epidemiology of brucellosis.

Pavlovskiy contends that many domestic as well as wild animals are responsible for the spread of brucellosis in nature. Nevertheless, goats and sheep are the chief and primary transmitting agents.

In recent years Soviet scientists have adopted new methods in their studies of brucellosis. They have studied factors governing self-healing, immunity, and the pathogenesis of the disease. Prof P. F. Zirodovskiy and his co-workers, P. A. Vershilova and Kh. S. Kotlyarova, described new achievements of USSR science. Studies have shown that self-healing is possible and does occur in brucellosis of the so-called goat and sheep type and the cow type. In the majority of sheep, the cure of brucellosis is accompanied by a complete elimination of causes of the disease. Nevertheless at times the infection recurs, but with less severity. In some cases where sheep have suffered from very acute forms of brucellosis, the infection seems to disappear, but actually remains in the body of the animal in an incubated form. Such studies have been most profitable since the course of brucellosis in man parallels that of brucellosis in animals. Data, such as this, has brought about a complete change in the pathogenetical conceptions of this disease.

Immunity from brucellosis can now be studied from a new view point because of knowledge concerning the dynamics of infection and common characteristics of the self-healing of the man or beast afflicted with brucellosis. Soviet scientists have been able to develop not only nonsterile vaccine for use during infection but also a postinfection sterile vaccine. The latter is used to prevent re-infection of the patient. In addition to problems revolving around the possibilities of self-healing and postinfection immunization, there is also the problem of a live vaccine to prevent infection from the disease. P. A. Vershilova, senior scientific collaborator, submitted a report which dealt with the possibility of developing just such a live vaccine. Experiments have shown that it was possible to obtain a dry, live avirulent brucellosis vaccine, which has great practical value.

Many of the reports submitted dealt with the clinical aspects and treatment of brucellosis. The most important was submitted by Prof G. P. Rudneva, Corresponding Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR. Prof O. D. Sokolova-Ponomareva, Corresponding Member of the Academy, reported on the clinical aspects of brucellosis in children. Docent M. Kh. Farizova reported on the clinical aspects of nerve disorders brought about by brucellosis infection. N. D. Beklemishev, Candidate of Medical Sciences, described the significance of allergy in the treatment of brucellosis. Prof P. P. Ochkur, Chief of the Chair of Pathology, Kazakh Medical Institute discussed the pathological morphology of brucellosis in man.

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All the reports showed the great interest and achievements of Soviet scientists in the field of brucellosis and its cure. Along this line Prof G. I. Rudnev's report introduced a note of optimism for all who might be suffering from this disease. It is now possible to give prompt aid and in many cases effect a cure in brucellosis infection. An effective cure consists of close correlation between immunobiological, chemotherapeutical and physiotherapeutical methods. In recent years the effectiveness of vaccination has become very evident.

Others who submitted reports were M. N. Solov'yev, P. G. Sergiyev, active members of the Academy; S. N. Puchkovskiy, A. Ya. Alymov, P. A. Petrishcheva, corresponding members of the Academy; and various representatives of sovkhoses, kolkhoses, and rural regions of Kazakh SSR.

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